

CS40 NPTC 2-Day course in Aerial tree pruning with Pip of Kernow Training Ltd.

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.

Following on from the first day of the course in March, we continued the work on the Cedar in Victoria Gardens in Truro. The emphasis was on cleaning bulk of dead wood out to the branch ends, to leave a tidy tree that has great amenity value within the park.



Pic. 1. Cedar of Lebanon, Victoria Gardens, Truro. 22<sup>nd</sup> May '20.

The 125ish year old tree is understated and delicate, and has an odd growth bias – possibly owing to being partly shaded out on the southern side by its larger coniferous neighbours. The photo was taken at the end of the workday, and shows the deadwood debris on the ground. The job on this tree involved 2 days work.

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A third day was kindly booked in by Kernow Training Ltd, to cover the course hours and help me consolidate what I had learned, this time at a different rural location just north of Truro.

A group of four small *Fraxinus excelsior* stood next to a static caravan. The two ash trees closest to the caravan were to be pruned and cleaned out a bit, in line with the other two, on which the same work had been done previously.



Pic 2. Before work on 2 ash trees, Royal Farm, Truro. 23<sup>rd</sup> June '20.

In the process of lifting these trees crowns away from the caravan, their amenity value was increased, by dispensing with some ambiguous lower growth, while leaving them with their more upright forms. The relationship between humans and trees was brought to the fore as I worked with these structural garden elements. The utility we perform in turn promotes the long-term utility of the trees we're pruning.

As a team, with eyes in the tree and on the ground, we worked steadily and thoroughly through to determine which parts to remove (other than the lower boughs already marked on the brief), in order to achieve a balanced and attractive result from whichever angle the tree cluster is observed, and without leaving any unsightly wounds or stubs.





Pic 3. Before commencing work.



Pic 4. After finishing work



Pic 5. After work, 23<sup>rd</sup> June '20.

Tree surgery is a challenging job not merely in terms of the practicalities of working at height, with power tools, but mainly because all cuts made have long term consequences for the tree and its shape or form. Learning some basic principles to bear in mind when pruning trees of different types (conifer and broadleaf, respectively) has been what this course comprised, mainly regarding working sympathetically with the tree. This means being careful at every stage – the tree is now your amputee! Major work must be very well planned, however a more improvisational and dynamic approach can be taken when cleaning out a tree of the bulk of dead wood, light crossing branches and hangers.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course, and working with Pip, and I take away some good training which apparently enables me to carry out tree pruning work to British standard BS3998:2010. This CS40 has proved to be the perfect progression course for me, and should serve me well upon continued practice, on my journey into ornamental arboriculture and garden design.

Many thanks to all who made this possible, including:

Pip  
Nicky at Kernow Training Ltd.  
Location hosts/staff  
All at the Professional Gardeners Trust

All best wishes,

Adam Jacobs